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leader in the study and teaching of geology, known and honored for his research and writings in the science of the earth in which the earth's history has been written by a mighty hand—Lehigh is proud of the record of this alumnus, whose life work has been so modestly yet so ably done, and through whose work his alma mater has been highly honored."

In 1893, Barrell began teaching geology at Lehigh, leaving to take his Ph.D. at Yale in 1900. Then he returned to Lehigh until he was called to Yale in 1903. In 1908 he was made professor of structural geology. Recognition of his work by his fellow workers in science came last April in the form of election to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the highest honor that can come to any American man of science. He was also a member of the Sigma Xi and of Phi Beta Kappa, a fellow and councillor of the Geological Society of America, and a fellow of the Paleontological Society. He had traveled widely in North America and in southern Europe, studying in the field the interrelations and deformations of the geologic deposits and their wear and tear by the forces of nature.

Professor Barrell loved to work at the more difficult problems of theoretic geology, such as the genesis and age of the earth, isostasy, and the strength of the earth's crust. His studies on the principles of sedimentation and their climatic significance have received much attention. In paleontology, he presented evidence to show that the fishes arose in the waters of the lands, and that lungs were developed, under the most trying conditions of semiarid climates, out of air-bladders of fishes. Similarly, that man "is peculiarly a child of the earth and is born of her vicissitudes."

In childhood Barrell was thinking of things scientific, and was even then more fond of books of learning and travel than of fiction and poetry. He was preeminently an observer and a student, and his recreation was scientific reading. Due to his training as an engineer, he always retained a liking for mechanics and mathematics, and through their aid loved to delve deeply into the broader problems of geology and biology. It was, in fact, these wider interests and the ability to work along so many lines that made him the deep and original thinker that he was. His colleagues at Yale will miss his stimulating originality. To them he was a second James D. Dana, and curiously both had a strikingly similar likeness.

C. S.

## *SCIENTIFIC ITEMS*

We record with regret the death of Walter Gould Davis, for many years director of the Meteorological Bureau of Argentina; of Lawrence M. Lambe, of the paleontological staff of the Canadian Geological Survey, and of Edmund Weiss, director of the Vienna Observatory for thirty-two years.

The John Fritz Medal of the four national societies of civil, mining, mechanical and electrical engineering has been awarded to Major General George W. Goethals, for his achievement in the building of the Panama Canal.

Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of Lick Observatory of the University of California, has been named head of an American delegation of astronomers that will attend the international meeting in Brussels in July.

Dr. Vito Volterra, professor of mathematical physics in the University of Rome, will deliver a series of six lectures on the Hitchcock Foundation at the University of California in August or September.

Sir Arthur Newsholme, K.C.B., who is now in the United States has accepted for the academic year 1919–1920, the chair of hygiene in the new school of public health of the Johns Hopkins Medical School.